Land Water Mask Issues

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Land Water Mask Issues

- The current at-launch 1km land water mask is abysmal and an updated MODIS derived land water mask is needed.
- The current Land Cover Algorithm does an excellent job of identifying coastlines (ocean/land boundaries) -- however difficulties in identifying inland water remain.
  - There is enough of a vegetation signal along lake and river shorelines to confuse the classifier.
  - Deep water or ocean water training sites are not sufficiently varied to aid in classifying inland waters.
- A new tile based approach for the inland waters will be tested.
- The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) data are just becoming available and should improve both the MODIS DEM and the land water mask through the designation of sea level --- this is not helpful for the inland water problem, however.